

FEATURES ASSOCIATED WITH THE POTLATCH IN

country. The child sings first beat out the song of the present dance, then that of his predecessor, to which the latter dances once again. If food is plentiful, wedding ceremonies may be carried out every day for several weeks, or a year or two may elapse without one. A child's song is remembered from year to year and he dances whenever it is beaten out. The same acquired in this way is used occasionally by a lad's cousin. After marriage, it is considered unforgive for a youth to be concerned with wedding and he normally becomes an adult.

Ceremonies of this kind have been discontinued for many years and it was impossible to obtain detailed accounts. The main features are clear: they served to instruct children in the methods of present-giving. According to one informant, there were two types of wedding ceremonial; one of the humorous nature above described in which, however, food alone was given away, and another in which miniature presents were distributed. This man believed that the latter was only possible for the children of wealthy chiefs, and that on such occasions the dance consisted of small incidents in the family myth. In other cases, the importance of ceremonial can be judged from the manner in which it was imposed upon some children.